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CITY AND COUNTY OF LICHFIELD

C.B.

ANNUAL REPORTS

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

C.E. JAMISON, B.A., M.B., D.P.H.

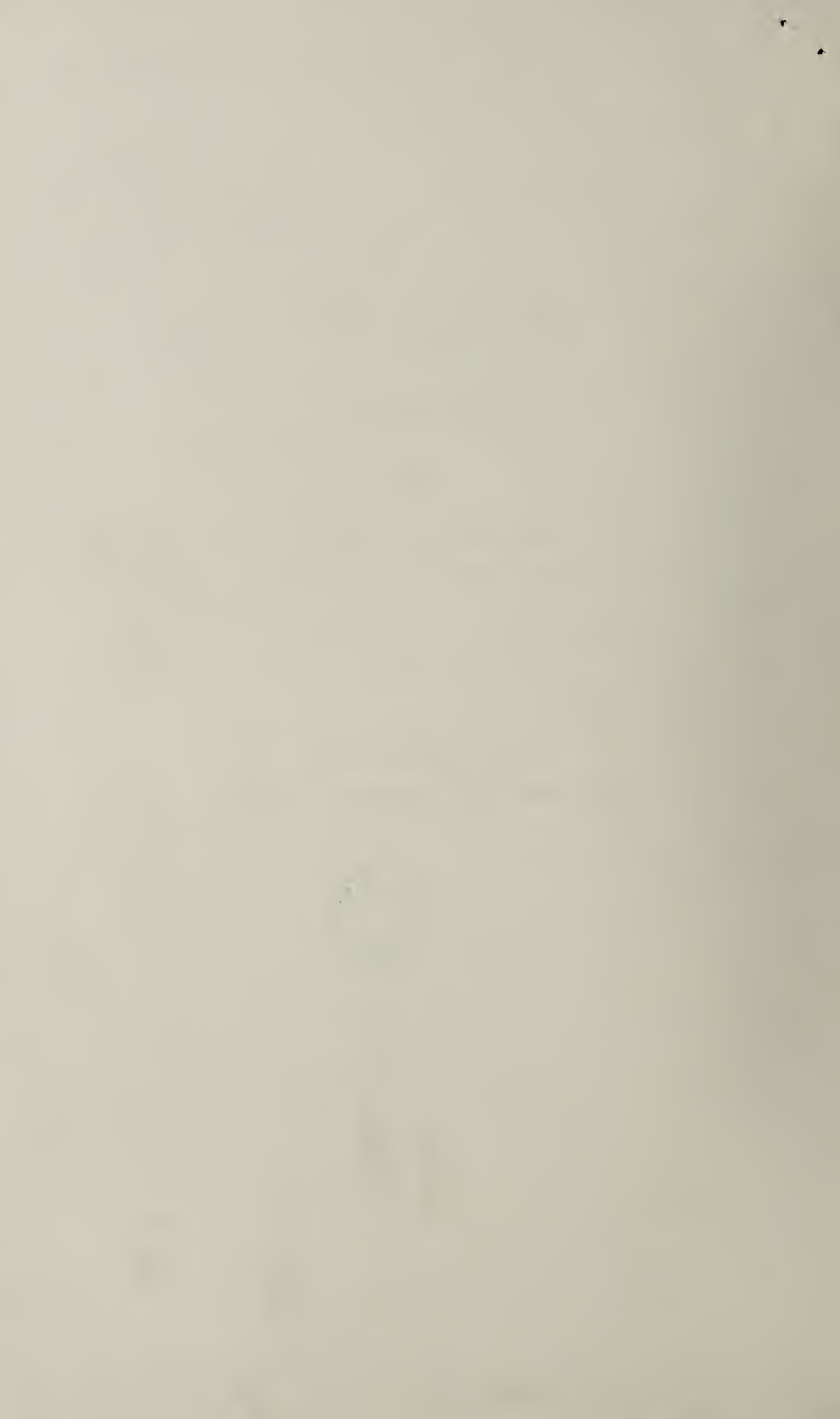
and of the

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

J. FINERON, D.P.A., F.A.P.H.I., F.R.S.H.



1959



CITY AND COUNTY OF LICHEFIELD

HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman

Alderman A.L. Garratt J.P.

Alderman C.W. Bridgeman  
Alderman C.H. Craddock  
Councillor Mrs. G.E.L. Caswell  
Councillor H. Ebdon  
Councillor B.A. Garman

Councillor J.G. Gill  
Councillor Mrs. M.E. Halfpenny J.P.  
Councillor J. Tetlow  
Councillor R.M. Yardley  
Councillor F. Halfpenny J.P.

Medical Officer of Health  
C.E. Jamison, B.A., M.B., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector  
J. Fineron, D.P.A., F.A.P.H.I., F.R.S.H.



CITY AND COUNTY OF LICHFIELD

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

1959

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,  
City and County of Lichfield.

I have pleasure in presenting my report on the health of the City and on the work of the Health Department of the Council in 1959.

The report is in the same general form as in previous years, but a little more information is included relating to infant deaths, while one or two tables, given in previous reports, are omitted on this occasion.

Generally speaking, the picture shown is a satisfactory one, with a low incidence of infectious diseases, and with vital statistics comparing quite favourably with those of previous years in the City, and with those of the country as a whole in 1959.

It is encouraging to note the information given in the City Surveyor's section of the report regarding results obtained by the treatment of sewage at the new sewage disposal works.

I would again take this opportunity of thanking members and officers of the Council for their continued help and cooperation during the year.

C.E. JAMISON.

Medical Officer of Health.

Guildhall,  
July, 1960.



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## GENERAL STATISTICS

Particulars of area, population, houses, total rateable value of property and product of a penny rate are set out below in the same form as in previous years:-

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,597
Population	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12,180
Number of Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,523
Total Rateable Value of Property	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£150,934
Product of a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£548

It will be seen that the figures reflect the same steady increases which have been evident during recent years.

## VITAL STATISTICS

These statistics, which may be used as a yardstick for the assessment of the health of the community, are set out below:-

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	97	109	206
Illegitimate	5	4	9
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	107	113	215
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 Population - 17.6

<u>Still Births</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	--	2	2
Illegitimate	1	--	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	1	2	3
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births - 13.7

<u>Deaths of Infants Under Four Weeks of Age</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	1	1	2
Illegitimate	--	--	--
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	1	1	2
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Neonatal Death Rate per 1,000 Live Births - 9.3





<u>Deaths of Infants Under One Year of Age</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	3	1	4
Illegitimate	--	--	--
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	3	1	4
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Infant Death Rate per 1,000 Live Births - 18.6

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Deaths (All Ages)</u>	65	90	155

Death Rate per 1,000 Population - 12.7

The figures show that one death in every 24 was illegitimate, which compares with one birth in 15 in 1958, and one in 22 in 1957.

The still birth rate was a relatively satisfactory one, the figure of 13.7 comparing with figures of 26.0 in 1957, 22.7 in 1956, 20.7 in 1955, 30.8 in 1954, 25.0 in 1953 and 22.9 in 1952. It is obvious that, in the light of the fluctuations which inevitably occur when a small number of cases are being dealt with, too much should not be read into the present favourable figures.

The following table shows the relationship between the birth, death and infant death rates in 1959 and those occurring in other recent years:-

Year	Estimated Population	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infant Death Rate
1946	9,082	21.0	11.7	44.7
1947	9,816	22.9	10.5	35.5
1948	10,170	20.5	10.9	38.4
1949	10,200	17.5	13.7	33.3
1950	10,400	16.2	10.5	65.0
1951	10,760	15.8	10.8	52.9
1952	10,870	15.7	10.1	11.6
1953	10,930	17.8	16.8	30.7
1954	10,930	20.1	11.8	45.4
1955	10,980	17.2	12.0	42.3
1956	11,050	19.5	12.2	18.6
1957	11,190	20.1	11.6	26.7
1958	11,510	21.4	12.4	24.4
1959	12,180	17.6	12.7	18.6

As will be seen, the birth rate was lower than in the three previous years, the death rate higher than in the five previous years and the infant death rate the same as in 1956 and the lowest except one in all the other years since 1946.

After adjusting the local figures, where necessary, in accordance with the comparability factors provided by the Registrar General, to allow for the variation of the local population from that of the country as a whole, the following table shows the comparison between our local figures and the national ones:-



Area	Live Birth Rate	Still Birth Rate	Neonatal Death Rate	Infant Death Rate	Death Rate
City and County of Lichfield	16.4	13.7	9.3	18.6	9.0
England and Wales	16.5	20.7	15.6	22.0	11.6

It will be seen that, on this occasion, all the local figures, except the birth rate, compare very favourably with those for the country as a whole.

#### CAUSES OF DEATH

The following table shows the causes of death of persons ordinarily resident in the City, regardless of where the death actually occurred:-

Disease	Total 1955	Total 1956	Total 1957	Total 1958	1959		
					M	F	Total
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	---	1	---	---	1	---	1
Other Tuberculosis	1	---	---	---	---	---	---
Syphilitic Disease	---	---	---	1	---	---	---
Diphtheria	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Whooping Cough	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Meningococcal Infections	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Acute Poliomyelitis	---	---	1	---	---	---	---
Measles	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Other Infective and Parasitic Disease	---	---	1	---	---	---	---
Malignant Neoplasm of Stomach	3	4	1	1	---	---	---
Malignant Neoplasm of Lung and Bronchus	4	5	3	1	2	---	2
Malignant Neoplasm of Breast	2	3	5	2	---	3	3
Malignant Neoplasm of Uterus	1	1	2	1	---	---	---
Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms	10	13	12	11	7	13	20
Leukaemia and Aleukaemia	1	1	---	---	---	---	---
Diabetes	---	---	---	2	---	2	2
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	17	17	14	20	8	16	24
Coronary Disease and Angina	13	9	8	8	7	3	10
Hypertension with Heart Disease	2	4	---	2	2	---	2
Other Heart Disease	16	27	26	20	2	17	19
Other Circulatory Disease	11	8	11	6	2	11	13
Influenza	2	---	4	---	5	3	8
Pneumonia	3	6	3	4	2	2	4
Bronchitis	11	5	3	12	4	3	7
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	1	1	3	4	2	6
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	2	2	---	2	---	---	---
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	1	---	2	2	1	1	2
Nephritis and Nephrosis	2	---	1	---	---	---	---
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	2	4	3	2	---	2
Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Congenital Malformations	5	---	1	2	1	---	1





Disease	Total 1955	Total 1956	Total 1957	Total 1958	1959		
					M	F	Total
Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases	21	14	23	33	11	12	23
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	3	1	2	2	--	2
All Other Accidents	--	7	2	3	1	2	3
Suicide	1	1	1	2	1	--	1
Homicide and Operations of War	--	1	--	--	--	--	--
	132	135	130	143	65	90	155

Of the infants dying before the end of the fourth week, one death was attributed to prematurity, while the other was due to a congenital abnormality.

In the case of the two children who survived the first four weeks of life but succumbed before the end of the first year, one death was due to complications in the lung following aspiration of milk during feeding and the second to a congenital abnormality causing renal failure.

There were no deaths in children between one year and 15 years of age, which shows the vast improvement which has been achieved in the field of child care during the past generation.

It is also satisfactory to note that only 17 males and 9 females died between the ages of 15 years and 65 years, leaving the vast majority of deaths in the age-groups over 65 years of age. It is notable that males predominated in the former group while females more in a considerable majority in the latter group, a tendency which is common to all parts of the country.

The one death attributed to pulmonary tuberculosis occurred in a man who had been suffering from a chronic form of the disease for a number of years. It is well known that results of treatment in these cases are much less satisfactory than in the acute infections now being diagnosed.

The number of deaths resulting from influenza appears rather surprisingly high in view of the absence of any large scale epidemic during the year. On going into the circumstances more fully, however, investigation reveals that only two of the victims were under 75 years of age, while even these two were in late middle age. It is obvious that, in fact, almost all the deaths occurred in persons who were already at the end of their life span, and were of little or no epidemiological significance.

As in all recent years, no death was attributable to pregnancy, childbirth or abortion.

Both of the deaths attributable to motor vehicle accidents occurred in adult males.

In the case of deaths resulting from accidents other than those involving motor vehicles, the picture is quite different, two of the three persons being females, one quite elderly and the other in late middle age. This is, of course, the typical finding in deaths of this nature.



# NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS

The table shown below sets out the number of cases of the various notifiable infectious diseases, other than tuberculosis, notified in 1959 and the preceeding 8 years:-

Nature of Case	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Measles	12	23	248	---	127	2	215	52	209
Whooping Cough	65	1	86	---	2	7	11	15	1
Pneumonia	3	1	15	1	4	1	6	---	2
Scarlet Fever	1	4	1	---	2	4	2	3	7
Puerperal Pyrexia	8	17	8	8	4	6	17	7	4
Dysentery	2	1	1	---	7	20	---	---	1
Food Poisoning	---	---	1	---	---	3	4	2	---
Encephalitis	---	---	---	---	---	1	---	---	---
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	---	---	---	---	1	---	2	---	---
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	---	---	---	---	---	---	1	1	1
Erysipelas	1	1	---	---	---	---	1	---	1

It will be seen that the number of cases of measles was very much larger than in the preceding year, and the incidence over a period of years illustrates well the biennial swing of the epidemic wave, which is so characteristic of this disease. Fortunately, the disease was again of a relatively mild character, and caused no deaths. The continued high incidence of this disease contrasts with the greatly reduced incidence of other diseases, such as diphtheria, whooping cough and poliomyelitis, which can, in most cases, be prevented by the appropriate inoculation. There is at present no indication that any immunising measure suitable for long term use can be expected in the near future. Such an inoculation would, if available, be a very great advance, as the disease, though not a very serious one, causes considerable disorganisation both in family life and in school work.

The next most prevalent disease, scarlet fever, is, of course, another which is not yet subject to preventive inoculation. It is indeed fortunate that this disease is now of a mild character, and is one which responds well to modern treatment.







It is satisfactory to note that there have been no cases of diphtheria, and only a small number of cases of whooping cough and poliomyelitis during recent years. It is quite reasonable to attribute the relative freedom from these serious diseases to the preventive work undertaken on a large scale at infant welfare clinics, in schools, and in the surgeries of the family doctors. This is very satisfactory reward for the very considerable labour and expenditure involved in carrying out this work.

### TUBERCULOSIS

Two cases of tuberculosis were notified during the year. Both cases occurred in adult males, one being 47 and the other 34 years of age.

The one death from the disease which occurred during the year has already been mentioned in an earlier paragraph.

The following table shows how the incidence of new cases and deaths in 1959 compared with those experienced in earlier years:-

Year	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1946	5	1	3	1	2	1	---	---
1947	4	2	1	1	2	1	1	---
1948	6	7	2	---	2	3	---	---
1949	9	5	2	---	1	3	---	---
1950	3	3	3	3	3	---	---	---
1951	1	3	3	1	---	1	1	---
1952	5	1	---	4	2	1	---	---
1953	2	1	1	1	---	1	---	---
1954	4	2	1	---	---	---	---	1
1955	3	4	1	---	---	---	1	---
1956	4	---	---	---	1	---	---	---
1957	1	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1958	1	1	---	---	---	---	---	---
1959	2	---	---	---	1	---	---	---

It will be seen that the number of new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis now coming to light is appreciably smaller than that shown year by year up to a few years ago, and that the incidence among females is particularly low compared with that in males.



The continued absence of new cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis is a very satisfactory result of the vast improvement which has taken place during recent years in the safety of milk supplies, partly due to the elimination of tuberculosis from dairy herds in the area supplying the local distributors, and partly to the heat treatment of all milks other than those derived from attested herds.

The arrangements for diagnosis, treatment and surveillance of patients and investigations of contacts continued as in recent years. Prompt admission to hospital of those persons requiring such admission was a favourable feature of the work, which no doubt played a large part in minimising the spread of infection.

#### HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION

Beds were again freely available for the reduced number of patients suffering from the various infectious diseases, including tuberculosis, requiring them. The fact that admissions were to relatively distant hospitals did not appear to cause any great difficulty, although it is, no doubt, somewhat inconvenient to the relatives of the patients concerned.

In the case of maternity patients, accommodation was again restricted to those mothers requiring it on medical or on fairly strong social grounds, reports being furnished, where necessary, in relation to applications in the latter category.

Real difficulty again occurred in securing the admission of chronic sick and elderly persons to suitable hospital accommodation. There is no doubt that the shortage of hospital beds for this type of patient is the cause of considerable hardship both to the patients concerned and to their relatives. Increased provision in this field would appear to be the greatest local need in the hospital service.

#### NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 AND 1951.

No action was taken during the year to compel any person to enter either a hostel or a hospital, such action being, of course, reserved for cases of very extreme urgency. Arrangements were made, in suitable cases, for district nursing and home-help services to be provided, in order to avoid the necessity for taking such action.

#### VENEREAL DISEASES

Arrangements continued as outlined in previous reports.

#### LABORATORY FACILITIES

These arrangements also continued as in earlier years. All possible help was received from the Directors of the Public Health and County Chemical Laboratories. These facilities are, of course, of great help both to general medical practitioners and to myself, by enabling all necessary investigations to be carried out without difficulty.

#### WATER SUPPLY

All specimens taken during the year proved to be of satisfactory quality. Only three properties in the City are now without a piped water supply.





FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955.

I am indebted to Dr. Ramage, County Medical Officer of Health, for the following information relative to foods and other substances sampled on behalf of the County Council, as Food and Drugs Authority, during 1959:-

Nature of Food	Number of Samples Taken
Milk	16
General Foods, Drugs etc.	57

All the samples of milk were genuine. A sample of pork luncheon meat proved to be 10% deficient in meat. Action taken led to an increase in the meat content. As a result of the sampling of beef steak with gravy, the whole question of standards for tinned meats were referred to the County Councils' Association. A sample of lemon juice was found to be incorrectly labelled as to Vitamin C content. The sample was found to come from old stock. The labels were amended to show the actual content.

Frequent inspections of food premises were carried out by the Public Health Inspector during the year, with a view to ensuring that premises were brought up to the standards laid down in the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955. Good progress is now being made in the implementation of these regulations, in spite of the difficulties experienced in securing satisfactory arrangements in premises which are, in some cases, small and cramped in relation to the volume of trade now being dealt with.

The following table shows the results of laboratory investigations on milk samples during distribution in the City during the year and tested for cleanliness and, in appropriate cases, for the efficiency of the pasteurisation and sterilisation processes:-

Type of Milk	Methylene Blue (Cleanliness)		TEST		Turbidity (Efficient Sterilisation)	
			Phosphatase (Efficient Pasturisation)			
	Sat.	Unsat.	Sat.	Unsat.	Sat.	Unsat.
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	40	—	54	—	—	—
Pasteurised	34	—	36	—	—	—
Sterilised	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	74	—	90	—	35	—

It is pleasing to be able to record that, on this occasion, all samples proved to be of satisfactory quality.



## HOUSING

Progress in the provision of new housing accommodation was accelerated in 1959, as compared with previous years, 109 houses, bungalows and flats being completed by the Council, as compared with 99 in 1958 and 85 in 1957, and 213 houses and bungalows by private enterprise, as compared with 114 in 1958 and 33 in 1957.

The completion of new houses, bungalows and flats allowed 81 families, including 45 families from Birmingham, to be rehoused in new housing accommodation during the year. In addition, 68 families were rehoused in relet houses and flats. In spite of the quite large number of families rehoused during the year, the waiting list increased from 350 families at the beginning of the year to 390 families at the end, showing that there is still a considerable unsatisfied demand for good housing accommodation.

Relatively good progress was again made in rehousing tenants from unfit housing accommodation, 32 families being rehoused in 1959, as compared with 44 houses in 1958. As a result of this rehousing, together with some which took place in the previous year, 50 houses were actually demolished in 1959.

No further statutory action was taken by the Council during 1959, in relation to unfit houses, as it was felt preferable to proceed with the rehousing of tenants from houses already represented as unfit before taking further action to increase the number of houses in this category. It would now, in the light of progress already made, seem possible that slum clearance can be expedited in the near future.

Particulars of statutory action in relation to repairs of privately owned houses will be found in the Public Health Inspector's report.

Applications were received during the year by the Council in respect of four discretionary improvement grants, of which three were approved, including two from owner-occupiers. Total grant amounted to £953, in respect of work involving expenditure of £2125. As regards standard improvement grants, payable for less extensive improvements, two applications were received, of which one was later withdrawn. A grant of £145 was made in respect of the second application. It is unfortunate that more owners, particularly those owning tenanted houses, do not take advantage of the generous financial grants that are available to the owners of properties which are soundly constructed, but which are lacking in modern amenities.

## FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 - 1959.

The results of inspections carried out under these Acts in 1959 were as follows:-

No. of Factories on Register	Inspections	No. of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
87	75	5	Nil





The following table sets out the defects found, and action taken to remedy them:-

Particulars of Defect	Defects Found	Defects Remedied	Defects Referred		Prosecutions Instituted
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness	5	5	1	1	--
Sanitary Conveniences Insufficient Unsuitable or defective	2	2	--	--	--

Information relating to outworkers is set out below, in the prescribed form:-

Nature of Work	No. of Outworkers on List	No. of Defaults in Sending List to Council	No. of Prosecutions in Failure to Supply Lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome places	Notices Served
Making, Wearing) Cleaning Apparel) and Washing	1	--	--	--	--

It would appear that outwork of the kind dealt with by the Factories Acts is carried on only to a negligible extent in Lichfield.

#### SEWAGE DISPOSAL

(Prepared by the City Surveyor)

#### Sewerage

##### (a) Foul Sewerage

The work of cleansing the foul sewers in the centre of the City has continued during the present year and a detailed survey of all the sewers in the central area is to be carried out during the year 1960/61 in order to prepare a scheme of improvements of the faults which are known to exist.

The Trent Valley Foul Sewerage Scheme, which commenced in July, 1959 is approximately 60% complete and it is programmed to commence the construction of the new pumping station, to replace the present one in Valley Lane, next month.

##### (b) Surface water Sewerage.

The process of cleaning and investigating the surface water sewerage system in the City Centre continues.

The Trent Valley Surface Water Scheme which commenced in July, 1959 is approximately 60% complete and good progress continues to be made.



(c) Sewage Disposal Works.

An extremely good effluent continues to be produced at the Curborough Sewage Disposal Works. A scheme has been prepared, and it is hoped that work will commence this year, for the conversion of the existing old settlement tanks into sludge digestion tanks. The scheme will assist in the disposal of sludge which in the winter season is a very real problem.

PUBLIC BATHS

(Prepared by the City Surveyor)

During the 1959 season high standards of cleanliness were endeavoured to be maintained, and the samples of the water taken were satisfactory.

The design for the improvement of the Baths has been completed and a tender accepted, the contract being awarded to a local Contractor. It is hoped that work will commence in the near future.

HOUSE REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

(Prepared by the City Surveyor)

Controlled tipping at the site in Ponesfield Road continued during the year.

The rats and flies became somewhat of a nuisance in the Autumn, but every endeavour was made to deal with these.

At the same time, the site of the tip was purchased by the County Council for school playing fields.

Arrangements were made and an agreement is being prepared to rent the site of the old clay pits at Shenstone for controlled tipping, in conjunction with the Rural District Council. Tipping operations will commence there as soon as the agreement is signed.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

(Prepared by the City Surveyor)

Despite efforts of the male and female attendants, cases of abuse and misuse continue to be reported. In spite of this, a high standard of cleanliness has been maintained for the greater part of the year.

Since the opening of the relief road the Beacon Street conveniences have shown a considerable loss in revenue.

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

GENERAL INSPECTION OF DISTRICT

Under present conditions a good deal of extra work is caused by reinspections which have to be made in many cases before remedial works are done. This is due to difficulties experienced by owners of property requiring works of repair, as the majority of builders are fully employed on new structural works.

During the year 175 complaints were investigated. These concerned housing defects, smoke pollution, food hygiene and miscellaneous matters within the province of environmental hygiene, as well as a few well outside.





## HOUSING ADMINISTRATION

Good progress was made in the re-housing of displaced tenants and the demolition of unfit houses. This was due to preparatory work which had not previously been reflected in statistics. There was no serious overcrowding, although a few cases were noticed where there were bedroom deficiencies. Statutory overcrowding is no longer prevalent in any part of the City. This circumstance shows considerable improvement over the conditions which existed some years ago. It should be realized, however, that there are still families who could benefit by better accommodation.

Four years ago my report contained a reference to the tendency for many house hunters to buy houses rather than share accommodation with relatives or live in apartments. This development continues and is likely to result in nearly all houses being owned either by the occupiers or by the local authority - as previously forecast. Apart from other considerations, this gradual change has been marked by improved standards of domestic hygiene. When the occupants own their houses they have the incentive to improve the property and maintain it in good condition.

The fact that during the year more than 150 enquiries from people proposing to acquire premises in the City were dealt with indicates that a good deal of time was spent in giving guidance to would-be purchasers. There seems to be no doubt that the "filtering up" process referred to in Official memoranda some years ago is of value in improving housing standards. There is also the fact that better economic conditions have enabled many families to secure the extra amenities now regarded as essential - such as bathrooms and internal hot water supplies.

## SMOKE ABATEMENT

In the City of Lichfield clean air activities are concerned almost entirely with efforts to secure the abatement of recurrent smoke nuisances from the chimneys of a few boiler installations. As the atmosphere in Lichfield is relatively clean - having regard to the proximity of large industrial areas - it is only to be expected that occasional emissions from these chimneys in the City rarely escape notice.

There seems to be misunderstanding in some quarters regarding the powers of the local authority for dealing with smoke nuisances. It appears that a few citizens who complained were under the impression that the Clean Air Act meant that no smoke should be emitted in any circumstances. The Dark Smoke (Permitted Periods) Regulations must, of course, be kept in mind when observations are made. It should be realized, however, that emissions in excess of these periods do constitute an offence under the Clean Air Act.

The works of conversion at two industrial works in the City have resulted in complete solutions of the smoke problem at the premises concerned, while in two other cases some measure of improvement has followed adjustments in boiler stoking.

It is hoped that at least two other industrial installations will **shortly** provide alternative means of raising steam. Meanwhile, the only course is for constant care on the part of stokers, and regular observations on the boiler chimneys.

## RODENT CONTROL

Experience gained during the past year has shown that more time will have to be given to this work than was previously realized. Apart from minor infestations in old premises, trouble has been experienced on new building estates. This serves to emphasise the migratory nature of rats and shows that regular surveys must in future be a feature of rodent control work.



A difficult problem occurred in one of the canal banks where an infestation had become well established. The position here was aggravated by the amount of food which had been left by people feeding a swan on the canal bank. Well meaning people who feed wild birds might consider the danger from pests, especially in surroundings of this kind.

Towards the end of the summer the Council's refuse tip became infested. Here again, the amount of food in the refuse was a contributory cause of the trouble. Large quantities of bread were frequently seen in the loads when delivered to the tip. Food containers with residues tend to encourage rats.

The policy of the Housing Committee in requiring fowl pens to be raised from the ground is wise and has proved to be justified. It is to be hoped that this will be done by poultry keepers at privately owned houses, as it certainly makes easier the work of the rodent operative.

If occupiers of premises would bear in mind that rats are capable of travelling considerable distances, that they look for harbourage and food, it would help in the work of control.

During the year treatment was carried out at 40 private houses and at 11 trade premises.

#### THE INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

Only two of the private slaughter-houses in the City were in use during 1959. With the willing co-operation of my rural colleagues, inspection of all meat was carried out during or immediately after slaughtering.

Details were as follows:-

Beasts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	210
Sheep	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	459
Pigs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	421

The undermentioned were voluntarily surrendered for destruction after being found diseased and unfit for human consumption.

30 Bovine Livers

6 Pigs' Heads

4 Pigs' Plucks

The following articles of food were also dealt with after being found unwholesome and unfit for sale.

Apricots	34 Tins	Irish Stew	1 Tins
Beans	4 "	Jam	59 Jars
Boun Vita	1 "	Kit-e-Kat	1 Tins
Beef Steak		Luncheon Meat	8 "
Puddings	4 "	Nescafe	1 "
Corned Beef	15 "	Ox Tongue	2 "
Casseroles Steak	3 "	Orange Juice	4 "
Crab	1 "	Oranges	1 "
Chicken	1 "	Peaches	42 "
Cherries	2 "	Pineapple	31 "
Chopped Pork	1 "	Pears	15 "
Cream	1 "	Peas	15 "
Cheese Spread	3 "	Pilchards	2 "
Cooked Ham	12 "	Prunes	1 "
Evaporated Milk	5 "	Rice	3 "
Fruit Salad	6 "	Raspberries	1 "
Grape Fruit	7 "	Steak	11 "







Soup	16 Tins	Strawberries	1 Tin
Sardines	2 "	Tomatoes	61 "
Silver Sild	1 "	Tomatoes	4 lbs.
		Tongue	5 lbs.

### FOOD HYGIENE

A good deal of useful work was again recorded during the year under review. There are still some premises in the City which fall short of requisite standards. In a few cases the occupiers were found to have made little progress, either in the matter of structural improvements or in regard to food handling. There was a tendency to await official intervention before commencing even minor improvements which are obviously essential to ensure compliance with the regulations.

Warning notices were given in two cases where employees were found smoking on food premises - a practice which has resulted in prosecutions in some other districts.

It is regrettable that the notices relating to dogs in food shops are often ignored.

Intimations were given requiring the renewal of broken or uneven paved floors, rough wall surfaces and the renewal of worn out equipment at food premises where little had been attempted by the occupiers concerned. The difficulty of cramped accommodation is, of course, a feature inseparable from some old buildings, though more could often be done by using available space to greater advantage.

A comparatively new departure in trading methods is the travelling shop, which seems likely to become more popular. This innovation has brought new difficulties in food hygiene, though there are appliances available which are designed to furnish washing facilities with hot water for the use of assistants on food vehicles.

Experience continues to support my view that repeated inspections provide the only effective means of securing and maintaining standards of cleanliness necessary to ensure the safe handling and distribution of food. It is significant that the much publicised Clean Food Guilds established in some districts have apparently failed to produce the results which their sponsors expected.

Possibly the higher standards which have been reached at some food premises may eventually encourage the public to display more interest in this very important branch of environmental hygiene.

As far as Lichfield is concerned, it has never been suggested that the position is in all respects satisfactory, though considerable improvements have been effected since the introduction of the Regulations.

